11: Taylor E-5 (ca. 1930-1937)1946
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871 857 Between the ages of six and twelve children are supposed to attend school in Salybia, in many cases a considerable distance from their homes. This does not, nevertheless, exempt them from fetching wood and water, or running errands for their mothers; and sometimes they will play truant from both and go river-crayfish catching on their own account, at which they are generally much more adept than doing sums or reading. In fact, considering that all school work is conducted in English (a language which few come to understand readily, let alone [212] to speak clearly) it is not surprising if those children who acquire a fair degree of literacy are the exception rather than the rule.

461 476 The average Carib man rises with the sun, and works hard enough, but sporadically, as present interest or inclination dictates. Periods of excessive energy output are followed by days of depression or complete idleness, encouraged doubtless by drinking bouts for which any occasion such as a Church holiday, a wake, or a "coup de main" may be the pretext. The latter system of coöperative work still obtains for such heavy or urgent labor as clearing a patch of woodland for a new provision-garden, hauling a freshly made dug-out from the forest-heights to be finished on the coast, digging the site for a new house or re-roofing an old one. For such tasks, helpers are invited, and no payment is offered, but food and rum are supplied free and *ad libitum* by the owner of the canoe or house, or the maker of the new provision-garden.

463 Of the two most thickly settled districts, St Cyr and Bátaka, the inhabitants of the former hamlet are predominantly seamen and basket-makers, those of the latter, woodsmen and horticulturists. But only those belonging to a very large household can afford to specialize to any considerable extent. Most Carib men must be ready to turn their hand to felling, squaring, and sawing of timber; hunting, sailing, and fishing; the making of dug-outs, basketry, twine, and rope; thatching and broom-making from palm-leaves; even butchering and carpentry. Small wonder that the expert canoe-builder and fine basket weaver are disappearing together with the old joint family.

462 While man may be called the "butter-winner," woman is the "bread-winner" of the Island Carib family (metaphorically speaking; for they see little of either in the literal sense). Her labor, though perhaps less arduous than a man's, is unceasing. It is she who does all the washing and cleaning, cultivates, carries and prepares the starchy tubers that go by the name of food, makes and mends [264] the family's clothes, cares for the children. It is therefore hardly to be looked upon as a strange custom, if she continues as of old to serve the men's meals in the house, herself and the children eating later and at leisure in the kitchen (an [343] outhouse in the yard).